

154275

DATE: July 26, 1982

SUBJECT: June 3, 1982 Trip Report to Dead Creek Sauget, Illinois

FROM: Michael C. O'Toole *Michael C. O'Toole*

St. Clair Co
Cahokia/ Dead Creek

TO: File

On June 3, 1982 at 9:00 a.m., I met Tom Powell of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) at their office in Collinsville, Illinois. Tom drove me to the Dead Creek site in Cahokia, Illinois. My objective was to determine if personal safety equipment would be required for any contractor installing a chain link fence around the perimeter of the site.

Tom and I arrived at the site around 10:00 a.m. The weather was sunny warm and humid and the temperature was approximately 85°F. The creek bed is approximately 10 feet below the bottom of the existing fence. There was water in the creek but it appeared to be stagnant. Tom remarked that he had never seen that much water in the creek. The existing fence (see photographs) was down in several areas and in one location was being held down with rocks. The existing fence was in definite need of replacement.

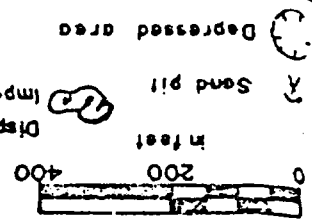
I decided that it would be necessary to dig a hole every forty paces as close to the existing fence as possible. Tom and I would then use the HNU Photoionizer to determine if any contaminants gases were emanating from the holes. Tom and I dug 42 holes (see attached map) approximately 18-24 inches deep and 9 inches in diameter. Holes numbers 31, 32, 34 and 35 were the only ones that the HNU readout was greater than the 2 ppm background. The readings for those holes was approximately 4 ppm. Tom was surprised that those holes showed greater than background levels. Tom conducted most of the early investigations at the Dead Creek site and he was very familiar with the locations of the heavy contamination discovered by IEPA.

Tom and I decided that the readings from those four holes could be discounted because they were not significantly higher than background. In addition those readings were probably associated with the farming activities at that portion of the site. A soybean crop had just been planted.

Based on this field trip I decided that no personal safety equipment would be required to install the fence.

cc: Tom Powell, IEPA ✓

KM



Falling Springs Rd.

Walnut St.

Judith Ln.

1-42: hole locations
A-K: photo locations

Dad Creek

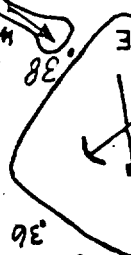
New Queney Ave.

Old Queney Ave.

Cerro Copper

Cerro Copper

Souget
Town Hall



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TO: DIVISION FILEDATE: 9-17-82FROM: J.P. EVANS☒ Information onlySUBJECT: General - St. Clair Co. Controlling Dead Creek☐ Response requested

On Friday, Sept 17, 1982, an inspection was made of the "Dead Creek" AREA to determine the status of the construction of the fence. At the time of the inspection there was no activity; ~~the~~ the status of the fence, as contracted out, is as follows: Posts have been instolled on the ^{entire} west edge of the creek, but no fencing. The north edge has both posts and fencing. The east side has posts and fencing up to the private home located in the south east corner of the creek. Snow fence is still in place from the property surrounding the private home, and along the south edge of the creek.



TO: Division file DATE: 10-27-82
FROM: Tom Powell - Southern ☒ Information only
SUBJECT: General St. Clair Co. Cahokia / Dead Creek ☐ Response requested

On October 27, 1982 this writer visited the subject site, along with Mike O'Toole - USEPA. Superfund Region II, for the purpose of inspecting the completed fence for final payment. Mr O'Toole was responsible for inspecting the completed fence to make sure it conforms to the contract specifications, after this determination is made only then could final payment be made.

Upon arrival at the site, this writer met with Mr O'Toole and Ed Century - Granite City Fence. While walking on the east side, just north of the pond, it was apparent that someone had tried to steal portions of the fence. Two corner braces were missing, the barbed wire cut and the fabric cut from the fence posts. Except for this act of vandalism, the fence met the contractual specifications, and according to Mr O'Toole final payment will be made. While still present at the site crews from Granite City Fence were ^{repairing} ~~replacing~~ the damage. As of this visit, all work has been completed except for the top strand of barbed wire on portions of the western side. After leaving the site, this writer stopped at the Cahokia Police Department to report that vandalism had occurred to the fence, and to ask their assistance to control any future vandalism acts. Note - Granite City Fence has still not supplied a padlock per the contract - Ed Century said that a padlock will be supplied in a day or two.



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division file DATE: 10/29/82
FROM: Tom Powell - southern region ☒ Information only
SUBJECT: General St. Clair Co Cahokia/Dead Creek ☐ Response requested

On October 28, 1982 this writer traveled to the subject site along with Doug Tolson and Ken Bosie of our Springfield office. Messrs. Tolson + Bosie came down to inspect the finished fence at Dead Creek as well as to make a determination how to transport the old snow fence back to Springfield. Mr. Tolson said that he would be in contact with Bob Robinson (618-337-5810) of the Village of Cahokia to set up times, dates, etc for the pick-up of the fence which is at present stored at the Cahokia Municipal garage.

January 6, 1983

Division File

Tom Powell ^{TEP} - Southern Region

LPC - General - St. Clair County - Cahokia/Dead Creek

This office has received reports that recent heavy rainfalls have had an impact on Dead Creek. The amount of water within the creek is as high as this writer has seen since the Agency became aware of the situation in the spring of 1980.

On January 4, 1983, Tony Townsen, the Health and Safety Officer of Cahokia, contacted this office to say that water is flowing through the blocked culvert under Judith Street. Officer Townsen was concerned that water from the contaminated portions of the creek would wash contaminants downstream. Officer Townsen was told that there is little that the Agency could do to correct the situation as it now exists, but that the Agency could sample the water as it flows under Judith to see if there is a problem.

On January 5, 1983, this office received a call from Nancy Batson, 102 Walnut St., Cahokia, 618/337-4089. Mrs. Batson lives next to the borrow pit that is adjacent to Dead Creek. She stated that water is flowing into her basement at an alarming rate and that a sump pump must be operated 24 hours a day. She wondered that if perhaps some of this water could be contaminated, since a strange faint odor is noticeable at times. After a short discussion within this office, this writer contacted Mrs. Batson to say that someone would be out, later in the day, to sample the water in her basement.

This writer arrived in the area at approximately 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. A water sample was then obtained from the south side of Judith, where the blocked culvert discharged. The water level on the south side was above the culvert. Subsequently, it was impossible to estimate the flow rate. A water sample was collected, however, near an eddy on the south side. (See lab sheets) The freeboard on the north side of Judith was approximately 4-5 feet, so the likelihood of the water running over Judith was remote. After obtaining this sample, this writer proceeded to the Batson residence to obtain a water sample from the basement. As stated previously, water was entering the basement at a substantial rate. Mrs. Batson was told that after results are received from the lab she would be notified. With the samples in hand, this writer left the site.

TEP:jlr

cc: Southern Region ✓

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

EPA NEWS

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706 217/782-5562

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Muraro

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 24, 1980

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's involvement in Cahokia's Burning Ditch (Dead Creek) was slow in developing. The Agency received initial reports from area residents in May of periodic smoldering of materials in the ditch between Queeny Avenue and Judith Lane. At that time the incident did not appear to be of a serious nature, and the Agency assigned it a low priority.

That all changed on August 27 when it was learned that Peter Laumann's dog rolled in the ditch and died of apparent chemical burns. Preliminary samples taken in the ditch revealed hazardous levels of phosphorous, heavy metals and PCB's along the half-mile of ditch between the two streets.

Subsequent soil samples taken on September 16 and 17 of soil in the ditch substantiated earlier results, (see attached table). At that time water samples were taken from three private wells plus a pond adjacent and connected to the ditch.

Samples from the wells were analyzed and showed normal levels of metals. Analysis of the same wells for organic chemicals were negative for two but the well at 101 Walnut Street adjacent to the pond showed low levels of chlordane, PCB's and alkylbenzenes.

Analysis of the pond water showed normal levels of metals with low levels of PCB's and aliphatic hydrocarbons which are petroleum products such as motor oil.

Based on the initial samples the Agency moved to seal off the ditch between the roads. Fencing and signs warning the public were placed at each end of the ditch. On September 17 the Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8, began installing a snow fence along both sides of the ditch and around the pond, sealing off the contaminated area to unauthorized personnel. This installation involved 7,000 feet of fencing from DOT stocks and was under the supervision of Dale Klohr, the district engineer. Cost of the fence is estimated at \$7,500 and will be paid for by the Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency from the Governor's Disaster Relief Fund. Tests taken by the Illinois Department of Public Health show no radioactivity in the area.

These actions complete the first phase of dealing with this situation aimed primarily at safeguarding the public's health and safety.

Phase two will concern itself with the long-term environmental impact of the contamination, its extent and assessment of the liability and responsibility for the situation.

Phase three will address the problem of cleanup and disposal.

At this time the Agency feels there is no threat from the ditch to the health and safety of the public. There are no vapors from the contamination unless the ground in the bed of the ditch is disturbed. These will be sampled later this week for laboratory analysis to determine their content.

With the public safety issue winding down the Emergency Response Unit will turn over future action by the Agency to the Division of Land Pollution Control as provided for in IEPA operating procedures. This division will develop a program to determine the extent of the pollution in the affected area as well as north and south of the area of immediate concern.

Its primary objective will be to establish the exact perimeter of the contamination by a sampling program that includes:

1. east and west of the ditch from Queeny Avenue to Judith Lane.
2. north and south of that area from Queeny to beyond the industrial complex and from Judith to the Mississippi River as well as both sides.
3. testing vegetation along both sides of Dead Creek along the area outlined plus take samples of crops in the immediate vicinity.
4. core sampling along the same route to determine the extent, if any, of groundwater contamination.

Land personnel will also pursue reports that a buried dump exists on a three-acre site 300 yards south of Sauget Village Hall in an area bounded by Queeny Avenue, Falling Springs Road and the northern boundary of the old Waggoner Trucking Company property.

This phase of the Agency's actions will extend over a period of several months. Unfortunately there are no quick solutions to solving problems such as those that have been found here. It will take time for these actions as well as establishing who is responsible and liable for creating this situation.

Specifications and Statement of Work

Background

Dead Creek is located in the towns of Sauget and Cahokia in St. Clair County, Illinois. The creek supplies drainage for part of the Mississippi River flood plain known as the American Bottoms. During the past forty years Dead Creek has received industrial wastes from a variety of industries including the Harold Waggoner Trucking Company, Monsanto Corporation, Midwest Rubber Reclaiming Company, Chemical Warfare Service Division of the U.S. Army, Lewin Metals Company (now the Cerro Copper Company), American Zinc (now AHAX Zinc), LuBright Refinery (now a Mobil Oil Marketing Terminal) and Empire Disposal. A majority of these discharges were eliminated prior to 1971 when a culvert under New Queeny Avenue was plugged. These industrial wastes are now discharged to the Sauget Wastewater Treatment plant.

The creek was blocked at Judith Lane which prevented contaminated waters from being transported downstream. Concentration of several metals including barium, copper, lead, nickel, phosphorous and zinc exceeded several thousand parts per million (ppm). Polychlorinated biphenyls (10000 ppm), dichlorobenzene (12000 ppm), xylene (540 ppm), trichlorobenzene (3700 ppm), chloronitrobenzene (240 ppm), biphenyl (9000 ppm), dichlorophenol (170 ppm), alkylbenzenes (370 ppm), naphthalenes (650 ppm), and hydrocarbons (21000 ppm) were also identified in a few of the samples.

Scope of Work

The Contractor shall furnish the necessary personnel, materials, services, facilities (except as otherwise specified herein), and otherwise do all things necessary or incident to the performance of the work as set forth below:

Products

- a) Fence - Chain link wire fabric shall be made of No. 9 gauge galvanized steel wire, woven in a 2 inch mesh. Top and bottom edges shall be twisted and barbed. The fabric will be one piece with a width of 72 inches. 7
- b) Barbed Wire - Galvanized steel wire shall consist of two strands of No. 12 1/2 gauge steel wire with four point barbs on five inch centers.
- c) Posts and Bracing - Pipe line posts shall be 2" OD galvanized steel pipe. *Schedule 40 pipe* 1

Corner and gate posts shall be 3" OD galvanized steel pipe.

Bracing and top rail shall be 1 - 5/8" OD galvanized steel pipe.